

MIDDLE EAST

Iraqi warplanes shoot down 2 Iranian fighters

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes had shot down two Iranian fighters Friday in a dogfight near the eastern Iraqi border city of Basra.

An Iraqi military spokesman, quoted by the official news agency INA, said the two Iranian F-5 fighters had been approaching the Iraqi border.

"Our fighter jets attacked the two Iranian planes and shot them down in a dogfight at 1100 hours (0800 GMT). They were seen exploding in the air by our pilots," he added.

The Iraqi planes returned to their bases, INA quoted him as saying.

On Thursday Iraq's ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra strongly criticised countries which allow their ships to sail through the Gulf to trade with Iraq's

Gulf war enemy, Iran.

"It is a very strange thing that some world states ignore Iraq's proclamation of some Gulf areas as prohibited war zones and allow their ships to sail through them, thus exposing the lives of their citizens as well as ships to destruction by the Iraqi navy and air force," Al Thawra said in a commentary.

The commentary, the first of its type since the Gulf war began more than three years ago, said such countries had changed their ports into "Trojan horses" for exporting arms and ammunition to Iran.

Iraq has proclaimed part of the northern Gulf, including areas

around the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini and its oil terminal island of Kharg, a prohibited war zone and warned that any ships approaching this zone would be targets for its navy and air force.

Al Thawra said countries which allow their ships to sail to Iran become "partners to Iran's aggression against Iraq". It did not mention any countries by name.

There have been a number of reports of foreign merchant vessels hit by Iraqi fire this year, including Greek and Cypriot vessels.

"There is still time for those states to revise their attitude towards the Gulf war, not only in their own interests but also in the interests of world peace, threatened by Iran's aggressive acts against Iraq, the Arabian Gulf, Islamic and even non-Islamic states," the newspaper wrote.



ON GUARD: A French paratrooper stands guard at the Chiah Circle along Beirut's Green Line Wednesday. A ceasefire declared on Monday evening has kept things quiet in the Lebanese capital for the past two days. Shi'ite militia positions can be seen in the background (A.P. wirephoto).

Junblatt meets Lebanese envoy, Army Intelligence chief in Amman

AMMAN (R) — Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt said Thursday he had met Lebanon's ambassador to Switzerland, Johnny Abdo, and the head of Lebanese Army Intelligence here Wednesday night and discussed Saudi mediation efforts in Lebanon.

He told Reuters by telephone he had met his "old friend" Abdo and Colonel Simon Qassis, head of intelligence in the Lebanese Army, "who was representing the Falangist regime of (President) Amin Gemayel."

They discussed a "security plan" which Lebanese-born Saudi businessman Rafik Hariri is trying to mediate between the warring parties in Lebanon, Mr. Junblatt said.

"We will see if there is a possibility of implementing this plan after the ceasefire was subjected to so many relapses, the last of

which was the unprecedented shelling of southern residential areas of Beirut and innocent civilians," he stated.

There was heavy fighting in south Beirut earlier this week, mainly between the Lebanese army and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen who are allied with Mr. Junblatt's Druze fighters.

Asked if he and Mr. Abdo had discussed resuming reconciliation talks, begun in Geneva two months ago, Mr. Junblatt said he would not discuss political solutions for Lebanon without the participation of the Lebanese National Salvation Front and "the great ally" Shi'ite Muslim militia leader Nabih Berri.

The Salvation Front, backed by Syria, links Junblatt with former Lebanese President Suleiman Franjeh and former Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Dentkash favours bi-zonal federated Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Dentkash Thursday reiterated that he fully supported establishment of a bi-zonal federated state in Cyprus.

"We intend to keep the doors of peace open to the Greek Cypriots this year," the president of the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus said in a new year message.

Mr. Dentkash said establishment of a bi-zonal federal state would require recognition by the divided island's Greek and Tur-

kish communities of each others' rights and equality.

Hailing 1984 as the "year of recognition and enlightenment" for Turkish Cypriots, he described Greek Cypriot calls for the withdrawal of his Nov. 15 unilateral declaration of independence as "invalid and unbalanced."

"This wrong approach and unbalanced view in no way constitute a basis for agreement. If a bi-zonal federal independence is desired in Cyprus, this will be achieved through talks by the two states on

equal footing," he added.

Only Ankara has recognised the Turkish Cypriot state, with the international community generally still regarding the Greek Cypriot administration in the south as the legitimate government of the whole island.

Cyprus has been divided into Greek and Turkish Cypriot zones since Turkish troops invaded in 1974 and enforced an exchange of populations between the Greek south and Turkish north.

Chinese team meets Iraqi leader

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had talks here Thursday with the vice-chairman of the standing committee of China's National People's Congress, Wang Ren Zhong.

The agency said Mr. Hussein and Mr. Wang stressed the need to maintain ties and cooperation. Mr. Wang and his six-man delegation arrived here on Tuesday and were also expected to visit Jordan, Syria and Egypt.

French expulsion of five Iranians delayed at airport

PARIS (R) — Expulsion of five Iranians from France was delayed four-and-a-half hours after the pilot of an Air Iran plane refused to take off pending authorisation from Tehran, officials at Orly Airport in Paris said Friday.

The Air Iran Boeing 747, scheduled to leave the airport at 8.45 p.m. (19.45 GMT) Thursday night, departed at 1.15 a.m. (00.13 GMT) Friday with 205 passengers including the five expelled Iranians on board, airport authorities

said. The Iranians, employees at an Iranian Islamic Cultural Centre in Paris closed by the French government last Friday, were ordered to leave for "activities incompatible with their status as residents in France."

The five Iranians, brought to Paris from Reims where they were arrested on Friday, refused to walk to a bus taking them to the airport and had to be carried by police.

Iranians expelled from Kuwait arrive home

LONDON (R) — Twenty-three Iranians expelled from Kuwait following bomb attacks there two weeks ago arrived in Tehran Thursday, Iran's National News Agency IRNA reported.

The agency, received in London, said several of the group, which included teachers and an Iranian embassy employee, had been held by Kuwaiti security authorities prior to their expulsion.

Five people were killed and more than 60 injured in six bomb attacks on targets including the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait, the international airport and government buildings.

Nineteen people including eight Iraqis and three Lebanese are expected to go on trial next week in connection with the bombings. Kuwait has said the suspects were members of the banned Iraqi Al Da'awa Al Islamiya (Islamic Call) Party, which advocates an Iranian-style regime in Iraq.

Bangladesh seeks closer ties with Islamic World

By Atiqul Alam
Reuters

DHAKA — Bangladesh, a Muslim nation with a secular outlook, is seeking closer ties with the Arab World despite a rising tide of nationalism and criticism from within, the country that the move is aimed at attracting Arab money.

"Islam is a way of life and a way of thinking — it is not simply a religion," Military ruler Hossain Mohammad Ershad told a Dhaka Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers earlier this month. The convention cost underdeveloped Bangladesh \$10 million.

With Muslims accounting for more than 85 per cent of the country's 95 million people, Bangladesh ranks as the world's most populous Islamic nation after Indonesia.

But demonstrations in the past two years show that Bengali nationalism, the driving force in the country's independence war with Pakistan 12 years ago, could hamper plans to create a formal Islamic state.

Gen. Ershad's opponents say the country does not need to flaunt religion to win Islamic support and one prominent Bangladeshi

economist said: "His eyes are firmly fixed on petrodollars. Other things are simply superficial."

Since taking power in a coup 21 months ago, Gen. Ershad has been to Saudi Arabia three times and Bangladesh has received \$500 million of aid from Islamic countries.

"We need money for our survival and it does not matter where it comes from," the general once said.

Gen. Ershad has said he favours greater Islamisation but has guaranteed the country's Hindus, Christians and Buddhists their freedom of worship.

But in January his announcement to a religious meeting that he was planning to turn Bangladesh into an Islamic Republic drew a storm of protest.

His critics launched a vigorous opposition campaign saying the plan threatened Bengali culture and language through greater use of Arabic and heralded stricter enforcement of Islamic codes of law.

The resulting clashes between police and demonstrators' five people were killed and more than 100 injured.

Apparently taken aback by the strength of feeling aroused, Gen. Ershad's aides later denied that the general wanted to introduce an Islamic constitution and said he was expressing personal feelings.

Western diplomats in Dhaka say that while they believe Gen. Ershad is a Muslim at heart, he also abhors radical Islamic trends and their fundamentalist precepts.

"Fundamentalism has no place in our Islam. We are very religious-minded people but it is not cut off people's hands, it just will not be accepted," the general was quoted as saying.

Prominent Bangladeshi Muslim cleric Moulana Hasmatullah Faridpur told reporters: "Islamic statehood is very good... but should not be done at the expense of national unity." He condemned the fundamentalist brand of Islam practised in Iran.

His attitude is at odds with the Jamaat-e-Islami and Tabligh, two fundamentalist groups with branches all over Bangladesh. The organisations are financed by several Arab nations, among them Saudi Arabia and Iraq, according to an official report.

their own version of Islam and they pour money into a poor country like Bangladesh to strengthen their own following," one official said.

Alarmed at this, the Bangladesh government recently proclaimed that official approval would be needed to receive money from abroad.

But officials stress that Bangladesh will continue in the Islamic mainstream without abandoning its path of liberalism, secularism and tolerance.

The resurgence of strict Islamic discipline is apparent in other fields. But bars, restaurants and nightclubs flourish in main cities although Islam prohibits the drinking of alcohol.

An official of the Islamic Foundation in Dhaka said sales of religious books had increased in the past five months, as had the number of people visiting mosques.

Solidarity with Islamic countries is paying dividends for thousands of Bangladeshis who have found jobs in Gulf countries. They are expected to send home about \$700-million in the financial year ending in June, almost equal to the country's annual export earnings.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
JORDAN TELEVISION MAIN CHANNEL 17:30 Koran 17:40 Cartoons 18:10 Children's Programmes 18:55 Prestige 19:00 Programme Review 19:30 Local Programme 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 The World in 1983 21:00 Review of the New Programme cycle FOREIGN CHANNEL 18:00 French Programme 19:00 News in French 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:30 M.A.S.H. 21:00 Saturday Variety Show 22:00 News in English 22:15 Feature Film: How to Murder Your Wife — Jack Lennon, Vima Lisi RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 450 KHz, SW 07:00 Morning Show 07:30 News Bulletin 07:33 Morning Show 10:00 News Summary 10:03 Oriental Foods 10:30 Morning Show 11:00 News Summary 11:05 Pop Session 12:00 News Summary 12:03 Pop Session 13:00 Morning Show 13:03 Catch the Words 14:00 News Bulletin 14:15 Instrumentals 14:30 Jordan Weekly Music 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 Instrumentals 16:05 Instrumentals 17:00 Special Feature 17:30 Music 18:00 News Summary 19:00 Top Twenty 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Book Club 20:30 The Young Sound		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITION * Orientalist paintings at the Alia Art Gallery on Saturday and Sunday. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 American Cultural Library 41521 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37109 Goethe Institute 41093 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 30777 Haya Arts Centre 663195 Hussein Youth City 41793 Y.W.C.A. 664251 American Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 443555 MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 14th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munazzah, Jabal Luwdeh. Opening hours: 10.00 a.m. - 1.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. Popular Life of Jordan Museum: (100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37109). SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1.30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1.30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Elghil Circle. Tel. 815261. CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Luwdeh, 37440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox): Abdali, 33541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, 41554. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, 71751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249. PRAYER TIMES 05:10 (Sunrise) Shuruq 06:38 (Sunrise) Shuruq 11:50 (Sunrise) Shuruq 16:40 (Sunset) Maghreb 18:07 (Sunset) Isha		AMMAN AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (06) 53250, 53070, 53071, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 07:00 Cairo (EA) 09:05 Aqaba (RJ) 09:30 Jeddah (RJ) 09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 09:45 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ) 10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 10:15 Beirut (RJ) 13:00 New York (RJ) 14:30 Kuwait (KAC) 16:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ) 16:05 Larnaca (RJ) 17:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ) 18:30 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ) 18:30 Cairo (EA) 18:30 Beirut (MEA) 19:00 Tripoli (RJ) 23:05 Cairo (EA) 00:30 Cairo (EA) 00:45 Baghdad (RJ) DEPARTURES 05:45 Cairo (EA) 06:30 Aqaba (RJ) 07:00 Jeddah (RJ) 08:30 Athens (Olympic) 09:05 Beirut (MEA) 10:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 11:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 12:00 Paris, London (RJ) 12:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 12:45 Larnaca (RJ) 14:30 Vienna, New York (RJ) 15:40 Kuwait (KAC) 19:30 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ) 19:40 Jeddah (RJ) 20:15 Baghdad (RJ) 20:30 Cairo (RJ) 20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 00:05 Cairo (RJ)		MONEY EXCHANGE Local sell/buy rates in feds Belgian franc 66.17 / 66.5 Dutch guilder 120.3 / 121 Egyptian pounds 32.9 / 33.8 French franc 44.0 / 44.4 Iraqi dinar 376.6 / 383 Italian lire (for 100) 22.2 / 22.4 Japanese yen (for 100) 159.2 / 160.2 Kuwaiti dinar 126.8 / 127.3 Lebanese lira 67 / 69 Omani rial 106.3 / 107.3 Qatari riyal 101.6 / 102 Saudi riyal 106 / 106.5 Swiss franc 169.9 / 170.9 Syrian lira 57 / 58 UAE dirham 101 / 101.6 U.K. sterling pound 533.4 / 536.6 U.S. dollar 371.5 / 373.5 W. German mark 135.3 / 136.1 WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be fair, with light and variable winds. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly fresh and seas calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C Amman 31/5 Aqaba 22/2 Deserts 2/17 Jordan Valley 10/21 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aqaba 22. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 41 per cent.		EMERGENCIES Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire, fire, fire 199 Blood bank 75121 Civil Defence rescue 66111 Fire headquarters 22001-3 Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777 Police headquarters 20141 Traffic police 56300-1 Electric Power Co. 36301-2 Municipal water service 71125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 53333 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813-32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4 Akleeh Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jabal Amman Maternity 42362 Mathias, J. Amman 36140 Palestine Shmeisani 664171-3 Shmeisani Hospital 664131 University Hospital 845848 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Musaher Hospital 66722-4 The Islamic, Abdali 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Italian, Al-Muhajir 77101-3 Al-Basrah, J. Ashrafieh 75111 Army, Marka 91611 IRBID Dr. Mazen Abu Baker 74609 ZARQA: Dr. Mesbah Al Hijawi 81217 GENERAL Jordan Television 73111 Radio Jordan 74111 Ministry of Tourism 42311 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 666176 Telephone Information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Cable or telegram 18 Repair service 11	
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zal lifts straints

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal Thursday lifted most foreign exchange controls and removed restrictions on imports and exports, and raised import and export duties to subsidize his plan to develop his country's economy.

The move appeared to end a 2-month power struggle between Ozal and the military, which has seen the paper value of the Turkish Lira rise to nearly £1 billion (\$1.45 billion), a record for a developing country.

Allianz, West Germany's biggest insurance group, announced in a statement from its Munich base that it had agreed to sell its Eagle Star shares to BAT at £7 (\$10.15) each and would allow its own latest bid of £6.75 (\$9.79) to lapse.

BAT, which had also bid £6.75, promptly said it was offering £7 for all Eagle Star shares, and shortly afterwards an Eagle Star spokesman said its board fully endorsed the merger.

BAT wins Eagle Star takeover battle

LONDON (R) — The London-based BAT Industries emerged Friday as the winner of Europe's biggest takeover battle when West Germany's Allianz Versicherung offered its 30 per cent stake in Eagle Star insurance to BAT.

The move appeared to end a 2-month power struggle between Allianz and BAT — Britain's third-largest industrial combine — which has seen the paper value of Eagle Star bid up to nearly £1 billion (\$1.45 billion), a record for a European takeover battle.

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pany, but the Eagle Star spokesman told Reuters the company had so far had no approach from any third party.

Allianz, which has expanded internationally over the past decade, has spent the past 2 years seeking an entry into the lucrative British insurance market.

Despite the failure of its attempt to gain control of Eagle Star, its financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell, said Allianz would make a capital gain of £160 million (\$232 million) on the sale of its shares, which it bought at an average cost of £3.06 (\$4.44).

Allianz had built up its holding in Eagle Star to 30 per cent — the maximum allowed by Britain's takeover panel without a full bid — while negotiating for some form of integration.

When this came to nothing it moved to take a controlling interest, offering £5 (\$7.25) per share on Oct. 19.

Eagle Star described the bid as derisory, and the Germans encountered open hostility from the British insurance establishment, which said German law would prevent a similar move in Germany by a British firm.

Eagle Star instead welcomed a counter-offer from BAT Industries, which began as the British-American Tobacco Company but has diversified widely in industry, manufacturing and retailing in recent years.

Each company made 3 further bids in subsequent weeks, with Eagle Star's board consistently recommending BAT to its shareholders and Allianz professing

shock at the resistance to its own approach.

BAT said at the beginning that it sought only a larger stake in Eagle Star rather than total control, and an Allianz spokesman in Munich said Friday its main reason for offering its shares to BAT was that it had been unable to achieve this goal.

In a joint statement the two companies said they might find other areas of cooperation in insurance, industrial investments and financial services.

The Allianz spokesman declined to elaborate.

Shares in Eagle Star had risen to £7.32 (\$10.61) in recent days on expectations of further bids, but fell Friday to £6.89 (\$9.99) and were last quoted at £6.92 (\$10.03).

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A very good last day of the year to be very definite in thinking about what you want in the years ahead and to make swift and definite plans for gaining such ambitions and goals.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan to see persons of different views to your own or contact those at a distance for a more interesting future.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You are suddenly inspired just how to handle your business matters in the future so that you become more successful.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A blunt partner shows you how to make the future brighter, so listen carefully and follow suggestions given you.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You can finish work that needs to be done, but take time to show appreciation to fellow workers.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may get an unexpected invitation that will bring you pleasure, so accept quickly. Show good intentions to the one you love.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You had better carry through with the plans made by family for New Year's Eve and be happy. Home entertainment is best.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Being active and making many new contacts is good during the day. Be sure to drive with utmost care.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) A good day to analyze your financial position as the year ends and know just how you do stand. Plan improvements on property.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You can clearly see all the opportunities ahead for the coming year, so be sure to plan wisely. You can become more successful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) This is a good day to see an advisor who can tell you what is best to do in the coming new year. Reach important decisions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Fine day and evening to be gregarious and see as many of your friends as you can, both in business and personal life.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Considering what you have accomplished during this year will give you a better idea of what to do in the New Year.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will never be quiet a moment, so early teach to think before speaking so as not to get into trouble. Give a fine education and add languages to the curriculum. Accentuate history and geography since travel is indicated.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares closed mixed in small selective trading which pushed the F.T. 30-share index to a record 776.4 at 1300 hrs, though at 1500 Friday it was down to 776.2. Dealers said trading interest was small due to year end influences.

Eagle Star fell 2 1/2p to 69 1/2 after BAT Industries agreed to accept the offer of 700p per share for the 30 per cent of stock held in Eagle Star by Allianz Versicherung, BATS rose 12p to 180.

Government bonds firmed up to 1/4 point in response to the higher trend in the futures market. Gold shares ended mixed and North Americans were untested.

Pharmaceuticals eased after U.K. press comment on increasing competition. Beecham and Glaxo were both 7p off but Bellair extended its recent advance, adding 120 to 840p on demand in a thin market.

Industrials mostly eased, with ICI 6p off at 644 while TI Group fell 4p to 166. BOC was 5p higher against the trend at 288 after favourable press comment.

Oils were firmer on renewed small demand with B.P. 7p up at 400 and Shell 5p higher at 566. Gains of around 10p were noted in Freccia and Lasso.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4482/12	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2446/49	Canadian dollars
	2.7370/90	West German marks
	3.0770/90	Dutch guilders
	2.1840/70	Swiss francs
	35.90/95	Belgian francs
	8.3675/3725	French francs
	1665.00/167.00	Italian lire
	232.30/45	Japanese yen
	8.0350/4400	Swedish crowns
	7.7390/7440	Norwegian crowns
	9.9100/9200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	379.40/379.50	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF

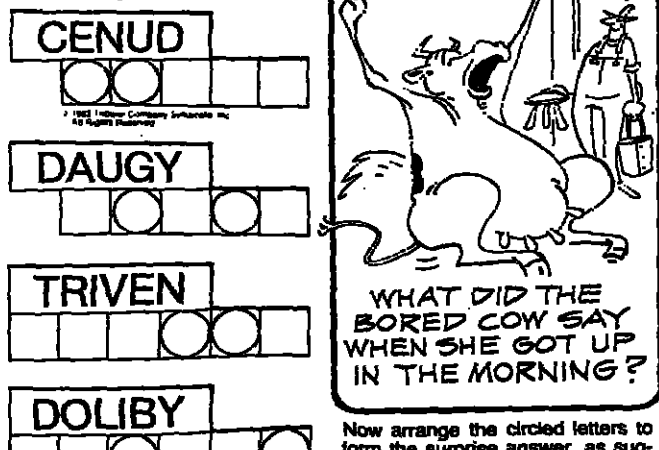
By Harris



"Remember that burglar alarm I ordered in the mail?..."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: "JUST AN..." (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PATIO SCOUR ARCTIC IMPACT
Answer: "Haven't you ever seen this?" — "A COMIC STRIP"

OECD says syndicated bank lending dropped sharply in '83

PARIS (R) — Syndicated lending by banks dropped by over 1/3 in 1983, reflecting their reluctance to increase their international exposure to risk due to concern over a number of heavily indebted countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said Thursday.

Persistent concern about the economic and financial situation of a number of debtor nations also led to a decline in bank lending in general, it said in a statement.

According to preliminary OECD figures, gross new borrowing through bond issues and syndication of international medium-term credits totalled \$137.9 billion in 1983, a drop of 18.5 per cent from the \$169.3 billion in 1982.

Borrowing on external markets rose by some 3 per cent to \$73.6 billion but the volume of newly arranged syndicated bank credits shrank by over 1/3 to around \$64

billion. This was the strongest decline on record since the 24-nation OECD has collected comprehensive data on the market, it said.

The share of OECD borrowers in total recorded borrowing rose fractionally to about 70 per cent from 68 per cent in 1982.

The OECD said borrowing by Eastern European countries in 1983 also rose slightly to \$900 million from \$700 million in 1982 but was still well below the levels recorded in the late seventies and early eighties.

The largest decline in international borrowing was by the group of non-oil developing countries. Their aggregate borrowing fell to around \$25.5 billion in 1983 from \$34.3 billion last year.

This underlined the significance of the fall in spontaneous lending to non-oil developing countries, it said.

The OECD noted that about

\$13.8 billion or over half the lending to non-oil developing countries in 1983 was accounted for by longer term loans within the framework of debt rescheduling pacts.

Meanwhile Mexico and its bank advisory committee agreed Thursday on a new \$3.8 billion loan covering the country's new money needs for 1984, a committee co-chairman said Thursday night.

The terms were considerably easier than those attached to a \$5 billion commercial bank credit which Mexico signed last February.

Committee co-chairman Mr. William Rhodes, a senior vice president of Citibank, said this reflected the profile of Mexico's debt, which total around \$83 billion.

The risk to lenders had been reduced because the Mexican government had made remarkable progress in implementing an economic programme agreed

with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said.

Mexican Finance Minister Jesus Silva Herzog said in a statement the new loan reflected substantial improvement in Mexico's economic performance over the past year and he believed international bankers would respond positively to it.

It is for 10 years, with repayment starting on Sept. 30, 1989. Interest was set at 1-1/2 percentage points over London Inter Bank Offered Rates (LIBOR) or 1-1/8 points over the rates U.S. banks offer their best customers.

Although \$3.8 billion is about \$300 million more than Mexico was originally reported to be seeking, one senior U.S. banker said the amount was raised for valid reasons.

"Mexico artificially depressed its economy in 1983 by cutting back on imports. Now it wants to reach a growth and needs more funds for investment," he said.

U.S. trade deficit narrows to \$7.4b

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit narrowed to \$7.4 billion in November from a record high a month earlier, partly because of a substantial drop in petroleum imports, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

But it added that the November shortfall was second only to the October high of \$8.97 billion. For the first 11 months of 1983, the country's balance in trade of merchandise ranging from manufactured goods to farm commodities was in the red by \$62.98 billion, about \$20 billion greater than last year's record deficit.

The United States has experienced a dramatic deterioration in its trade balance this year and the situation is expected to worsen in 1984.

"The record trade deficit this year, which may top \$70 billion,

has many causes — rapid domestic recovery, little growth abroad, financial problems of some developing countries and a strong dollar," Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said in a statement.

Looking to 1984, Mr. Baldrige said the economic recovery would accelerate overseas and be felt in debt-stricken nations, paving the way for some improvement in U.S. exports.

"Although the 1984 deficit will be higher than this year's, I anticipate that continued export gains and smaller increases in imports will begin to shrink the deficit," he said.

However, he said the high value of the dollar would be "the remaining cloud on the trade horizon" and continue to restrain export growth by making U.S. goods more expensive than rival pro-

ducts on markets abroad.

For November alone, the trade figures showed exports edged down 0.6 per cent and imports were scaled back 6.4 per cent after hitting a monthly record in October.

Imports of petroleum products dropped to \$4.84 billion last month from \$5.81 billion in Oct. In terms of volume, the United States imported an average of 5.5 million barrels of oil and related products per day last month compared with 6.3 million a day in October.

Non-oil imports also declined last month. Meanwhile, Middle East demand for U.S. products fell this year and the trend is likely to continue. U.S. merchandise exports to Arab countries totalled \$13.6 billion in the first 10 months of this

year — 10 per cent less than in the corresponding period last year.

The decline was attributed to the diminished purchasing power of Gulf oil producing countries.

But despite this decline, the U.S. registered a surplus of \$6.6 billion in its trade balance with the Middle East, the first since 1973.

Saudi Arabia, which accounted for 2/3 of all U.S. exports to Arab countries, purchased \$643 million worth of goods less this year than in 1982.

Similarly, U.S. exports to Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE fell by 25 per cent. U.S. crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia, which fell by 50 per cent between 1981 and 1982, amounted to only \$2.7 billion in the first 10 months of this year, compared to \$6.7 billion in the corresponding period last year.

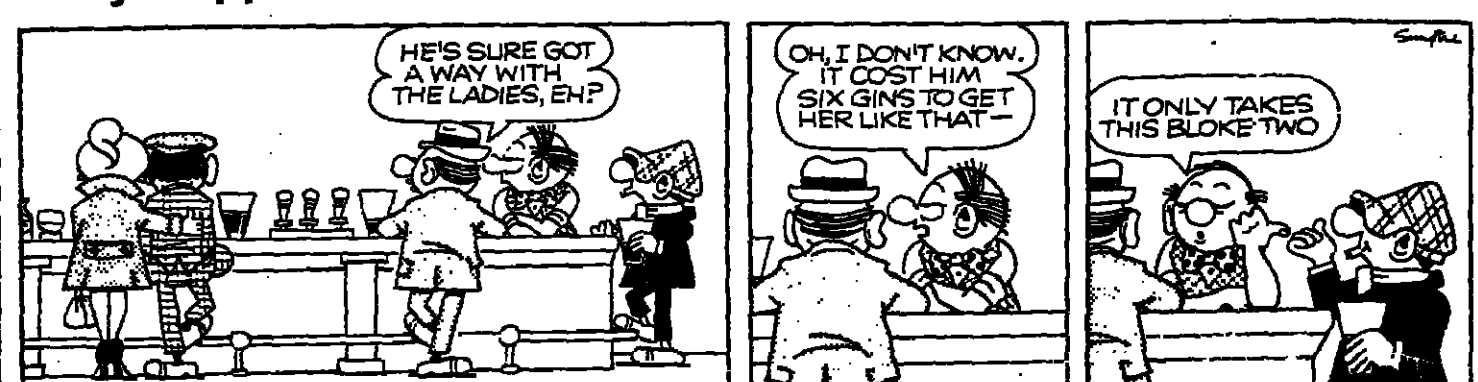
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

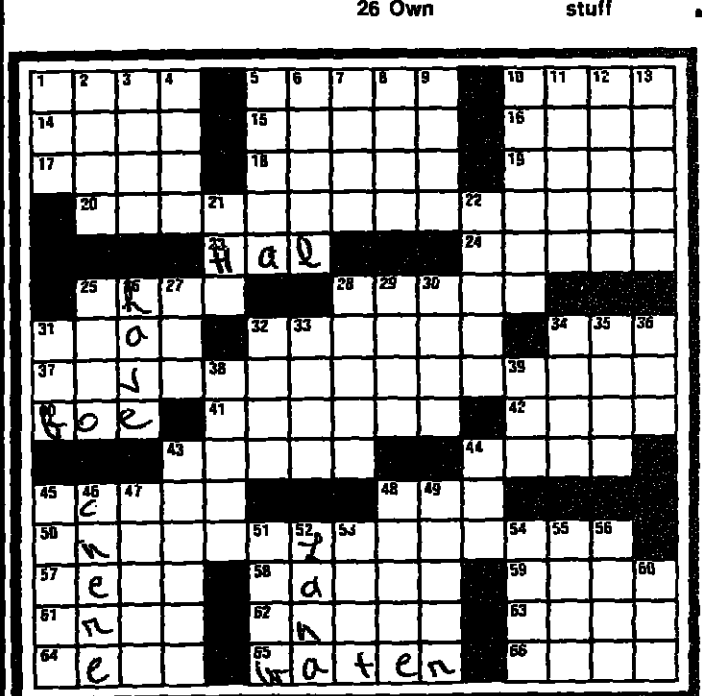


Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Martha J. DeWitt

ACROSS	28 Move slightly	57 Valuable wood	27 Pertaining to: suff.
1 Haulboy	31 Pearl Buck heroine	58 Spokes	28 Moa and emu
5 Boys Town city	32 Shrub of the rose	59 Layer	29 Egg on
10 Strokes	33 Exist	61 Where Perry won	30 Exploit
14 Soaks	34 Army bigwig	62 Famous lioness	31 Switch word
15 Reef	40 Enemy	63 Watermelon throwaway	32 All male
material	41 Ait	64 Oxygen and hydrogen	33 Glass unit
16 Many	42 Edges	65 Bambi	34 Sutherland
17 Alpha follower	43 Leaves	66 Musical group	35 Specialty
18 Fred's sister	44 Card game	DOWN	36 Overhead
19 Hiltack	45 Musical group	1 Sphere	37 Roofing material
20 Lucky	46 Galilee, for one	2 Meat	38 Member of the BPOE
23 Actor Linden	50 Animals whose tails were cut off	3 Preliminger	43 Sneaked a look
24 City on the Allegheny		4 Jacob's brother	44 Certain missile
25 Glenn's state		5 Fla. city	45 Weasel's cousin
		6 Example	46 French darling
		7 Neighborhood	47 Practice
		8 Mole	48 Woodcock
		9 Fish sauce	49 Corrects copy
		10 Conditional release	50 Breathing
		11 Breathing	51 Ship's jail
		12 "... pussycat went —"	52 Turner or Cantrell
		13 Back of a boat	53 Fateful date
		14 Greak letter	54 Cooled
		22 Boston's airport	55 Old King
		25 Medley	56 Comfort
		26 Own	57 Paving stuff



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WORLD

Buenos Aires opens trial of 9 former military leaders

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's highest military court has opened the trial of former junta members accused of authorising the murder, kidnapping and torture of thousands of political detainees.

All nine members of the three military juntas which ruled the country from 1976 until last year are to be tried by court martial on charges of systematically abusing human rights during the "dirty war" against leftist guerrillas in the 1970s.

On Thursday, two former presidents, Jorge Videla and Roberto Viola, appeared before the court, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, to be formally notified of their trial. With them were Admiral Armando Labruschini, who was navy chief from 1978 to 1981, and Brigadier Omar Graffigna, air force commander in 1981.

The remaining five former junta members are expected to appear

shortly. Argentina's newly elected president, Raul Alfonsín, ordered the trial of the nine after he took office three weeks ago.

As the hearings opened, local government officials announced the discovery of more unidentified bodies buried secretly in Buenos Aires cemeteries during military rule.

They are believed to be among the 6,000 to 30,000 people estimated to have disappeared during the armed forces' drive against the guerrillas.

The mayor of San Isidro suburb said Thursday that his local authority had started a court investigation over 41 unidentified

bodies found in Boulogne Municipal Cemetery.

And the mayor of Canuelas, another suburb, told a press conference that six bodies, including one belonging to a pregnant woman, had been buried in the local graveyard in 1976 after being found on waste ground.

Earlier this week, 24 bodies buried secretly in two other Buenos Aires cemeteries were exhumed. Many of them showed bullet wounds and signs of torture. Several former political prisoners have asked for a court investigation into a clandestine detention and torture centre which they allege was operated by the army near the motorway to Buenos Aires International Airport.

In a deposition, the ex-prisoners listed tortures which they said were conducted at the centre, including electric shocks, suffocation with plastic bags and the placing of live rats on prisoners' bodies.



MONACO — Princess Caroline of Monaco waves to the crowd from the Royal Palace balcony as she stands hand-in-hand with her husband Italian businessman Stefano Casiraghi shortly after their wedding Thursday there. (A.P. wirephoto).

Caroline marries Italian businessman

MONTE CARLO (R) — A beaming Princess Caroline flanked by her husband Stefano Casiraghi waved to well-wishers beneath the pink and white walls of Monaco's Royal Palace Thursday after a wedding ceremony celebrated in strict privacy.

Only family members and close friends attended as Caroline, 26, in a beige satin dress, exchanged vows at 11.30 a.m. (10.30 GMT) in the stately "Salon des Glaces" with Stefano, a 23-year-old Italian businessman.

Under brilliant skies overlooking the sparkling harbour of this tiny Mediterranean principality, Caroline and her new husband delighted the crowd of 1,000 as they emerged onto a palace balcony for a brief appearance after the wedding.

A handful of guests who did not attend the ceremony arrived afterwards at the palace for the marriage luncheon. The intimacy of Thursday's ceremony contrasted sharply with the pomp of Caroline's first marriage to French businessman Philippe Junot in 1978, which ended in divorce after barely two years.

The Princess, who has reigned as Monaco's first lady since the death of her mother, Princess Grace, after a road accident last year, was given away by her father Prince Rainier.

Although Monaco is a Roman Catholic state, it was a strictly civil ceremony since the Vatican has not yet ruled on the annulment of Caroline's first marriage.

For Caroline, who took on her mother's responsibilities with dignity and provided support for her grief-stricken father after the fatal crash, the wedding opened a new chapter.

"It proves hope conquers experience," one onlooker said. Caroline and Stefano met through friends last March and in recent weeks have been together constantly, prompting royalty watchers to remark on a happy change in the princess.

Casiraghi, who is tall and blond, is the son of a prominent Italian businessman and studied economics in Milan before beginning a business career.

Unlike her lengthy romance with Junot, which was said to have met opposition from her parents, Caroline's flirtation with Casiraghi blossomed quickly and news of the wedding surprised residents of the principality when it was announced last week.

The ceremony was attended by Caroline's brother, Prince Albert, and sister, Princess Stephanie. The younger princess, in a tailored black suit with red piping, was accompanied by Paul Belmondo, son of the French screen star Jean-Paul Belmondo.

Other guests included Caroline's aunt, Princess Antoinette, Prince Louis de Polignac, cousin of Prince Rainier and godfather to Prince Albert, and other Grimaldi family members.

The sister of Princess Grace, Lizane Levine, and her daughter, Grace, flew in for the wedding from the United States.

Brunei to gain full independence tonight

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The tiny Sultanate of Brunei, which gains full independence at midnight Saturday, will mark the end of nearly a century of British rule with prayers rather than pomp.

The oil-rich state in northwest Borneo will keep the ceremonies deliberately low-key to emphasise that independence will bring few changes, British High Commissioner Francis Cornish told Reuters.

Sultan Sir Muda Hassanah Bolkiah will read a proclamation at an open-air rally in the capital Bandar Seri Begawan and lead prayers at the main mosque.

Foreigners have not been invited to the ceremony which will be carried live by the country's sole television channel, an Information Ministry spokesman said.

They will have to wait for Feb. 23 when thousands of guests from more than 30 countries will formally celebrate independence on a much grander scale.

Workers are still striving to complete roads and the sultan's 2,000-room gold-domed palace in time for the formal ceremony, due

to be attended by government leaders and royalty from around the world, including Britain's Prince Charles.

The spokesman said the ceremony was being held seven weeks after the actual date of independence because few guests were able to travel during the new year holidays.

But Mr. Cornish said another reason was the wish to play down the event, which simply marked the transfer of responsibility for defence and foreign relations from London to the sultan.

Brunei has handled its own internal affairs since 1959 but accepted British protection.

"The government does not want to raise people's expectations and make them think things will be different after Jan. 1," said one foreign diplomat.

Not many people appear to be clamouring for change, however. Oil wealth gives Brunei's mainly Muslim Malays a cradle-to-grave welfare programme with free medical care and schooling, subsidised loans for housing and consumer goods, and no income tax.

Gandhi urges nuclear powers to resume talks

CALCUTTA (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Thursday declared that peace could not be achieved by preparing for war and called on nuclear powers to resume arms control talks.

Addressing the National Convention of her ruling Congress Party, Mrs. Gandhi said the theory of a balance of terror had brought the world to the brink of catastrophe.

"We call upon the governments of the nuclear weapon powers to resume negotiations without delay to limit and reduce nuclear weapons," she said.

Indian officials have said Mrs. Gandhi, who currently chairs the Non-Aligned Movement, is considering an invitation from United Nations General Assembly President Jorge Illueca to join talks with President Reagan and Soviet Leader Yuri Andropov to revive détente and halt the arms race.

The four-day Congress 11, con-

vention is expected to prepare the party for national elections which must be held before Mrs. Gandhi's term of office expires in January 1985.

In Thursday's speech Mrs. Gandhi criticised neighbouring Pakistan, a country which has fought three wars with India since independence in 1947. While both countries have agreed on the need to improve links, these are marred by suspicion and lingering hostility over the disputed border territory of Kashmir.

"Pakistan's propaganda barrage against us and its acquisition of sophisticated aircraft and equipment beyond its legitimate needs have caused much disquiet among our people," she said.

Mrs. Gandhi was apparently referring to Pakistan's military modernisation programme which includes the purchase of F-16 fighter aircraft and air-to-surface missiles from the United States.

UNITA releases hostages

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A Red Cross plane carrying hostages released by an Angolan guerrilla movement arrived in South Africa, eyewitnesses at Johannesburg Airport said.

There was no official word immediately on how many people were freed or what their nationalities were. A group of about 23 people who appeared to be released captives walked from the chartered plane to the terminal building.

The Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which is fighting the Marxist government in Luanda, released the hostages in what it described as a goodwill gesture for Christmas.

UNITA said last weekend it was freeing all its foreign captives except for about 20 Czechoslovaks it wants to exchange for prisoners held by the Luanda government.

The aircraft, with Red Cross markings taped to the fuselage, touched down at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport around 12.30 a.m. (10.30 GMT).

The group which walked from the plane included several children and two or three small babies. Most of the men were white and the women black.

UNITA has not made clear how many hostages it is freeing but it said last week it had captured 18 Brazilian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish nationals. It said five Britons taken prisoner last month would be among those freed.

Inquiry commission seeks witness to Aquino killing

MANILA (R) — A special inquiry commission probing the killing of Philippines opposition leader Benigno Aquino has mounted a nationwide search for a man who may have witnessed the killing on Aug. 21.

Commission sources said Friday they were looking for Cesar Loterina, a maintenance technician with Philippine Air Lines (PAL), who other witnesses believe actually shot Mr. Aquino.

Mr. Loterina collapsed on the tarmac after the shooting at Manila Airport, and was taken to hospital. He has not reported for work since then and his whereabouts are not known, the sources said.

Mr. Aquino was shot moments after returning to the Philippines after three years in the United States. The military identified the killer as Rolando Galman, whom they described as a hired gunman and Communist guerrilla, and who was cut down by security guards just after Mr. Aquino was shot.

At least two witnesses, both maintenance technicians, have said Mr. Galman could not have fired at Mr. Aquino, implying that he might have been shot by one of the security men who escorted him from the China Air Lines plane.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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THE WIZARDRY OF OZ

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column. Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♦ A
♦ KJ7
♦ A8654
♦ AQJ8
WEST
♦ J83
♦ KQ10754
♦ A1042
♦ Q9653
♦ 73
♦ K
♦ 10972
♦ 4
SOUTH
♦ 962
♦ 8
♦ QJ1092
♦ K653

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♦ 2 ♦ Pass 2 ♦
Pass 3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦
Pass 5 ♦ Pass 6 ♦
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Three of ♠.

When Sidney Lenz accepted Culbertson's challenge in 1931 to the

"Bridge Battle of the Century," he chose as his partner a relatively unknown young man — Oswald Jacoby. For a half-century since then, Ozzie has dazzled the world at bridge, backgammon and a host of other games.

This hand dates from the 1935 Vanderbilt Team Championships. After light actions by East and South, North not surprisingly pushed on to slam. We hazard a guess that most players we know would go down after losing the trump finesse. But let's see Ozzie in action.

West led a low spade, and Jacoby won in dummy. At trick two he led the king of hearts! When West won the trick with the ace, it was a sure bet that East had to have the king of diamonds for his opening bid. Also, West would certainly not have passed at his first turn with trump support and an outside ace and king. So when West returned a club at trick three, Jacoby won the king in hand, led the queen of diamonds and rose with dummy's ace to felly the king.

Some 30 years later, this type of play was named a "discovery play." It is typical of the genius of Jacoby that he discovered it so long before anyone else even thought of classifying it!

British carrier to enter Singapore dry-dock

SINGAPORE (R) — The British aircraft carrier *Invincible*, refused dry-dock facilities in Australia, will arrive here during the second week of January for repairs, diplomatic sources said Thursday.

The carrier, heading a task group on a tour of the Far East, will enter the dry-dock of a local shipyard for work on a damaged propeller shaft, they added.

Although the exact arrival date was not known, sources said the

warship was expected to leave Perth on Saturday and arrive in Singapore waters around Jan. 8.

The ship was unable to enter dry-dock on arrival in Sydney last week because the Royal Navy, as part of its long standing policy, refused to say whether it carried nuclear weapons.

Australia's Labour government does not allow nuclear weapons on Australian territory. The warship was also the target for anti-nuclear demonstrators in Sydney.

Uruguay police break up demonstration, arrest 100

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Riot troops and mounted police charged into a crowd demonstrating against Uruguay's 10-year-old military government Thursday night and arrested about 100 people, witnesses said.

Several demonstrators were kicked, punched and hit with truncheons, they said. One young man was beaten by several policemen and then dragged to a building site where an officer kicked his head, they said.

Motorists on Montevideo's main avenue blew their horns and neighbours banged saucepans from their balconies in protest during the charge.

The demonstration in support of the owner of an independent radio station shut down by the government was staged outside the apartment where he has been on hunger strike.

Small demonstrations have been held there every day since La Radio was closed on Dec. 17. But

police cordoned off the building Thursday night and charged into demonstrators gathered on nearby street corners.

The owner of the radio station, German Araujo, said earlier he was ending his fast after the government announced that La Radio would be able to resume broadcasting on Jan. 17.

La Radio was shut down for broadcasting the conventions of the country's two largest political parties, the Blanco and Colorado parties.

It was part of a crackdown on the press after a ban on reporting political activity was replaced by a system of prior censorship.

Publication of political news and all public political activities were banned after the breakdown in July of talks between the government and the three legalised parties on constitutional reforms demanded by the military prior to elections promised for Nov. 1984.

Convicted S. African spies await sentence

CAPE TOWN (R) — A former South African Navy chief and his wife Friday awaited sentence, possibly death, after being convicted of high treason in spying for the Soviet Union.

Commodore Dieter Felix Gerhardt, former head of the sensitive Simonstown Naval Dockyard, was found guilty Thursday of passing information to Moscow over 21 years. His Swiss-born wife Ruth was found to have helped him to operate his spy network.

The trial was held in secret and presiding Judge George Munnik took the unusual step of calling a press conference to announce the verdict.

He said it was in the interests of justice that the public be informed.

Legal sources said it was likely mitigating statements would take

up Friday hearing and sentence might be given Saturday.

The couple, who pleaded not guilty, can take their case higher to the South African court of appeal and the country's president.

Mr. Munnik said the Gerhardts used dead letter boxes, radios, couriers and personal visits to pass on information about weapons and public security systems to Soviet agents.

He said that Mr. Gerhardt, 46, had admitted spying since 1961. But the former navy chief insisted he had been working on the instructions of an unnamed country not hostile to South Africa to feed "disinformation" to the Soviet Union.

Ruth Gerhardt, 41, said her husband had given her the same explanation. She later suspected he was a Soviet spy and said she

was forced to continue working for him because of threats he made to her and her child.

Manila airport customs seize \$325,000

MANILA (R) — Security agents at Manila Airport seized \$325,000 in notes and cheques found hidden in a suitcase of a passenger bound for Hong Kong, customs officials said Thursday.

A spokesman said the money, neatly packaged in Christmas wrapping paper, was spotted as the suitcase went through an X-ray machine inspecting the hand baggage of passengers on a Cathay Pacific flight. No one had claimed the case when the flight left and agents opened it, he said.

At Sears Roebuck, the largest U.S. retailer, sales of durable goods including home appliances, were up and analysts reported strong sales in luxury goods, including fashion clothes, women's sportswear, dresses and accessories.

Other large stores reported a similar sales boom. A spokesman for J.C. Penney, the fifth largest retailer, said he expects December takings to exceed last year's \$1.95 million.

"It was ideal having an extra shopping day before Christmas this year," he said, adding that Christmas sales outstripped those of Thanksgiving week, traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year.

At R.H. Macy and Co., shoppers in the New York area are expected to spend 20 per cent more during the holiday season this year than they did last, lavishing money particularly on luxury goods, home electronics and other expensive items.

Now that Christmas is over analysts do not predict a greater rush to return gifts than in previous years.

They said stores would try to keep prices level in the next few weeks, and that profit margins should hold up through January.

Heavy spending over the holiday would have detrimental effects on January sale levels since much of the fourth-quarter figures depend on January trade. They warned shops might have to buy in special stocks to meet the demand from shoppers next month.

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At R.H. Macy and Co., sho-

COLUM

S. Arabia lifts ban on Motherca

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi has lifted an embargo on products of the British company Motherca, the official Saudi Agency reported Thursday. The decree lifting the embargo was signed by Commerce Minister Suleiman Abdulaziz Al Salim. It allowed a decision by the company to refrain from dealing with according to the conditions of Arab boycott of the Jewish

Reagan's lawyer son to stand trial for murder, rape of mother

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 21-year-old son of President Reagan's personal lawyer was Thursday found competent to stand trial on charges of murdering his mother, Miller, who sat on the edge of a chair clutching a tattered photograph of her son during Thursday's hearing. The hearing added not guilty to the charge of Superior Court Judge T. J. Fredericks ruled in April that Miller, son of lawyer Royce Miller, was mentally incompetent to stand trial for the murder of his mother, Marguerite, on Mar.

Father, son survive 5 days in plane wreck

ALBUQUERQUE, New M (R) — A pilot and his son survived Friday after surviving days of freezing temperatures in the wreckage of a light plane crashed in rugged mountains near New Mexico. Mink, 36, an aircraft dealer his son Brian, 14, were found Friday by a search helicopter. Mink's wife Charlene died after the crash near the 11,000-foot (3,350 metre) Teton Peak. Tony Mink, who head and chest injuries, as son, who suffered a fracture, older, said they remained the plane wreckage, which covered by several feet of after the crash.

4 earthquakes jolt Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — Four earthquakes with a maximum intensity of on the seven-point Japanese jolted the Tokyo area Friday. There were no reports of deaths or casualties. The Meteorological Agency said the first quake, occurred at 11:30 a.m. GMT, registered 5.4 on open-ended Richter Scale. Earthquakes later shook the island, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) west of Tokyo, the twelfth of the series. The last of the jolting four on the day scale. No damage or injuries reported. Agency official they were centred in the near Oshima and were believed to be related to the tremors.

China hit by worst snow in over a century

PEKING (R) — The snow for more than a century causing widespread hardship in China's southwest Yunnan province, the Economic Daily Thursday. A report from the provincial capital of Kunming city had suffered severe snow, traffic was halted and industry was in great difficulties. The New China Agency said earlier that it had been blanketed with centimetre (one-foot) snow but there were no reports of deaths caused by the weather.

Plague toll reach 29 in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Plague has killed 10 more people in northern Tanzania, bringing death toll over the past two to 29, according to the mission for the area, J. J. Iwata. He was quoted in issue of the ruling party Uhuru, as saying 81 people being treated for plague broke out in the Lushoto, earlier this month. Kill special treatment centre, been set up but efforts to the disease were being hampered by local witchcraft beliefs.

Handwritten signature or mark.